

Fig.1

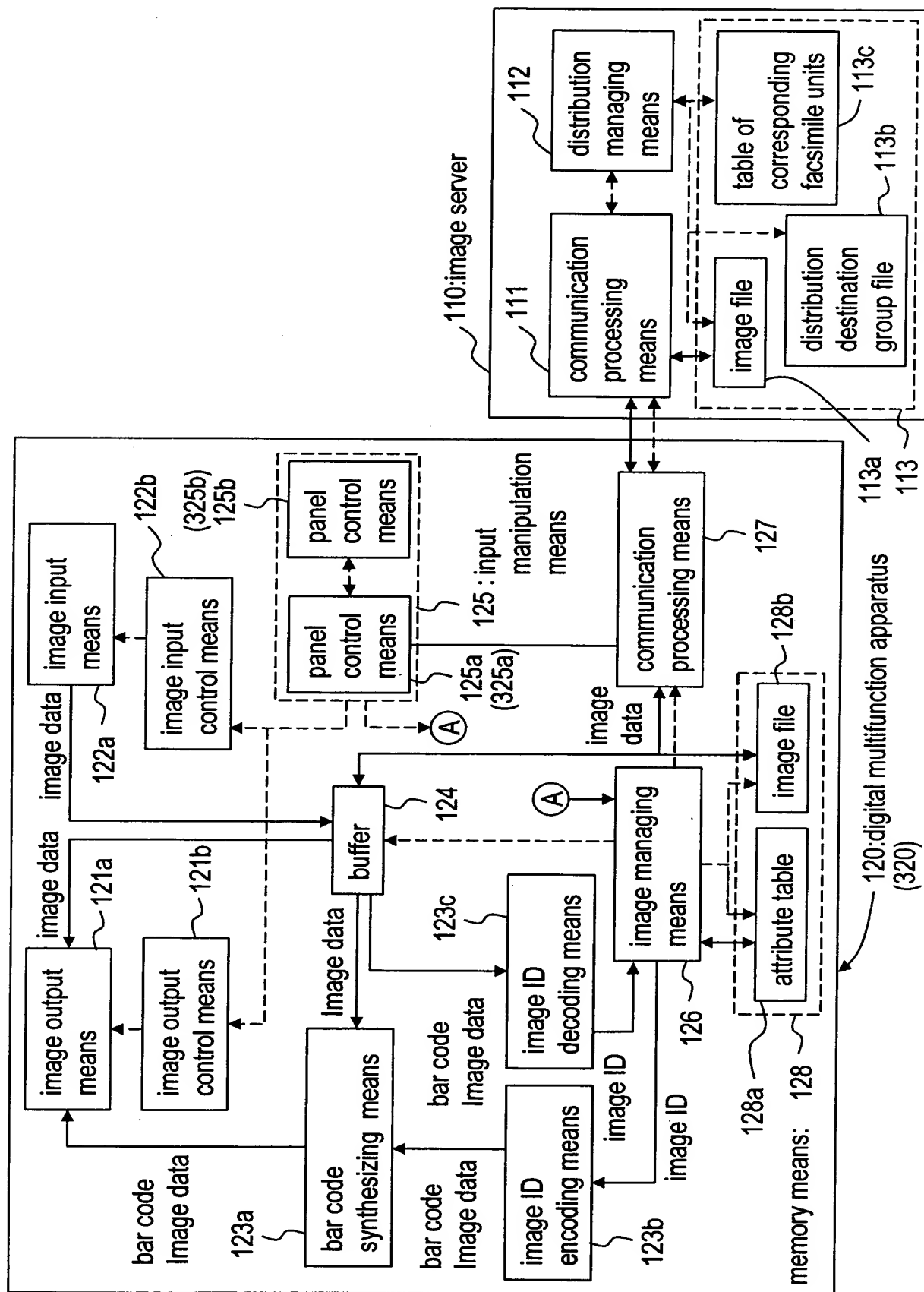


Fig.2

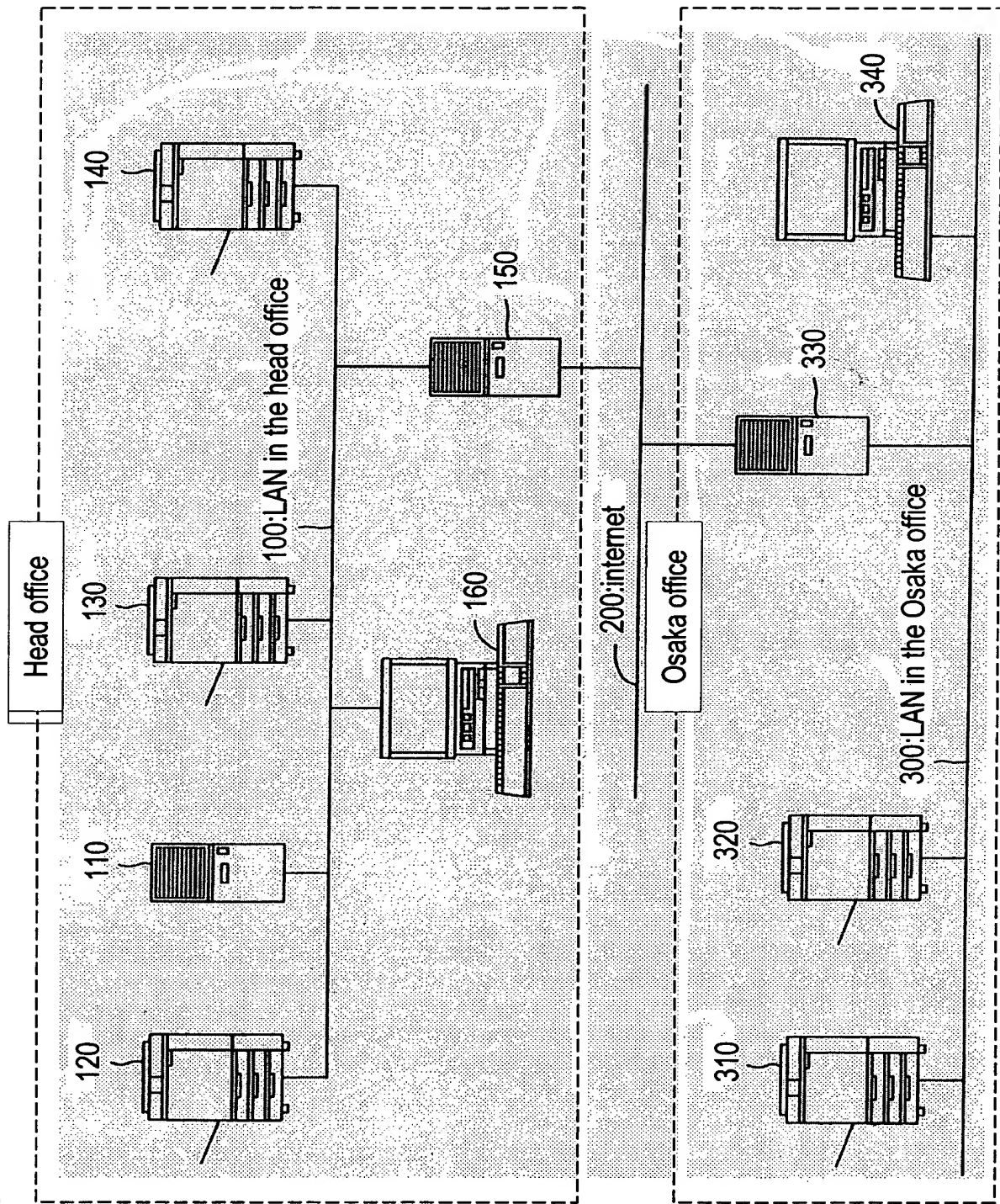


Fig.3

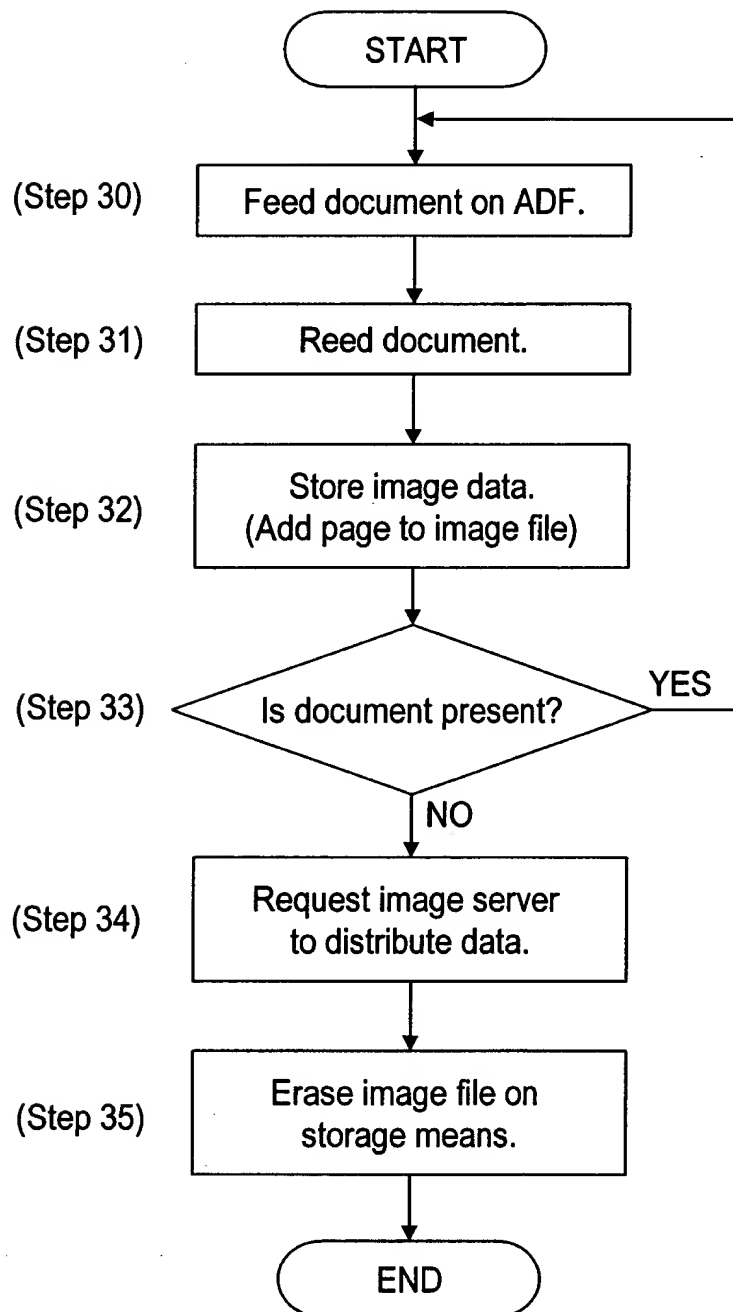


Fig.4

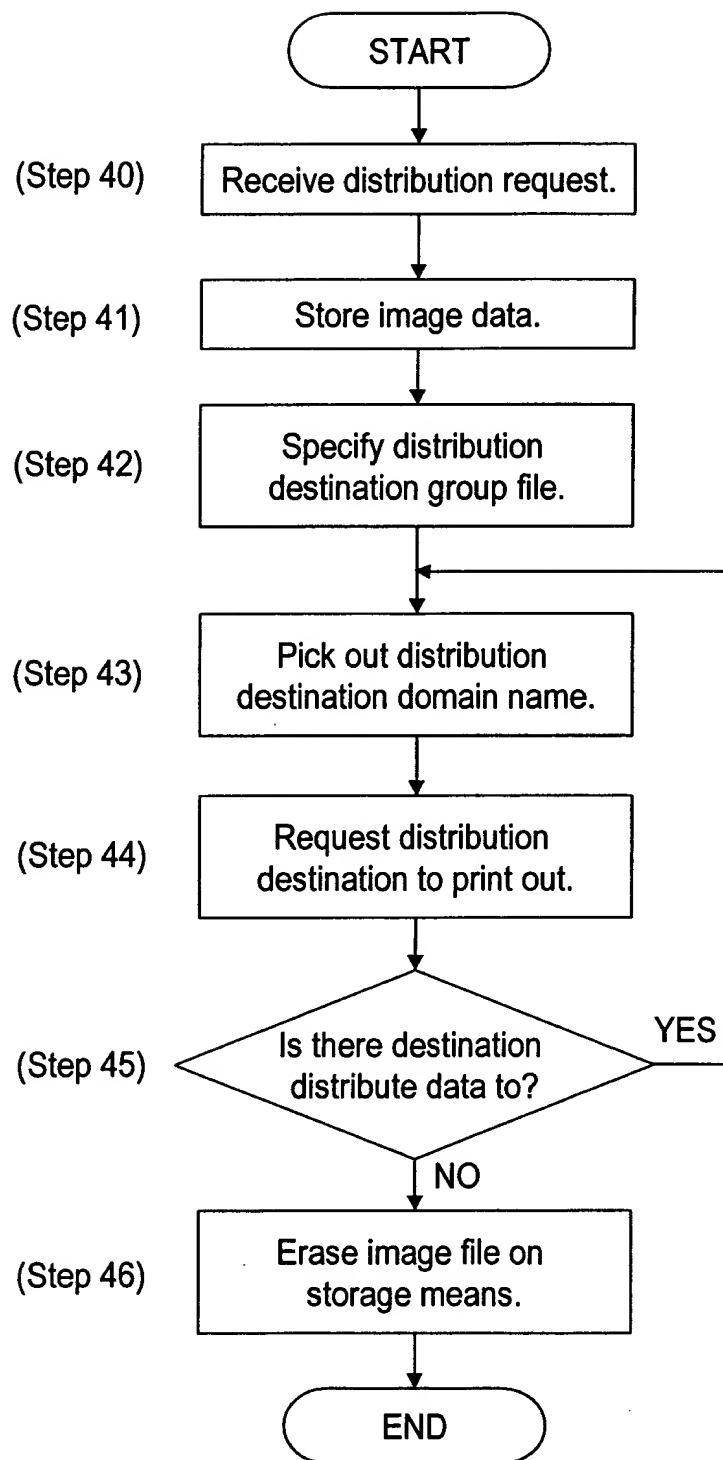


Fig.5

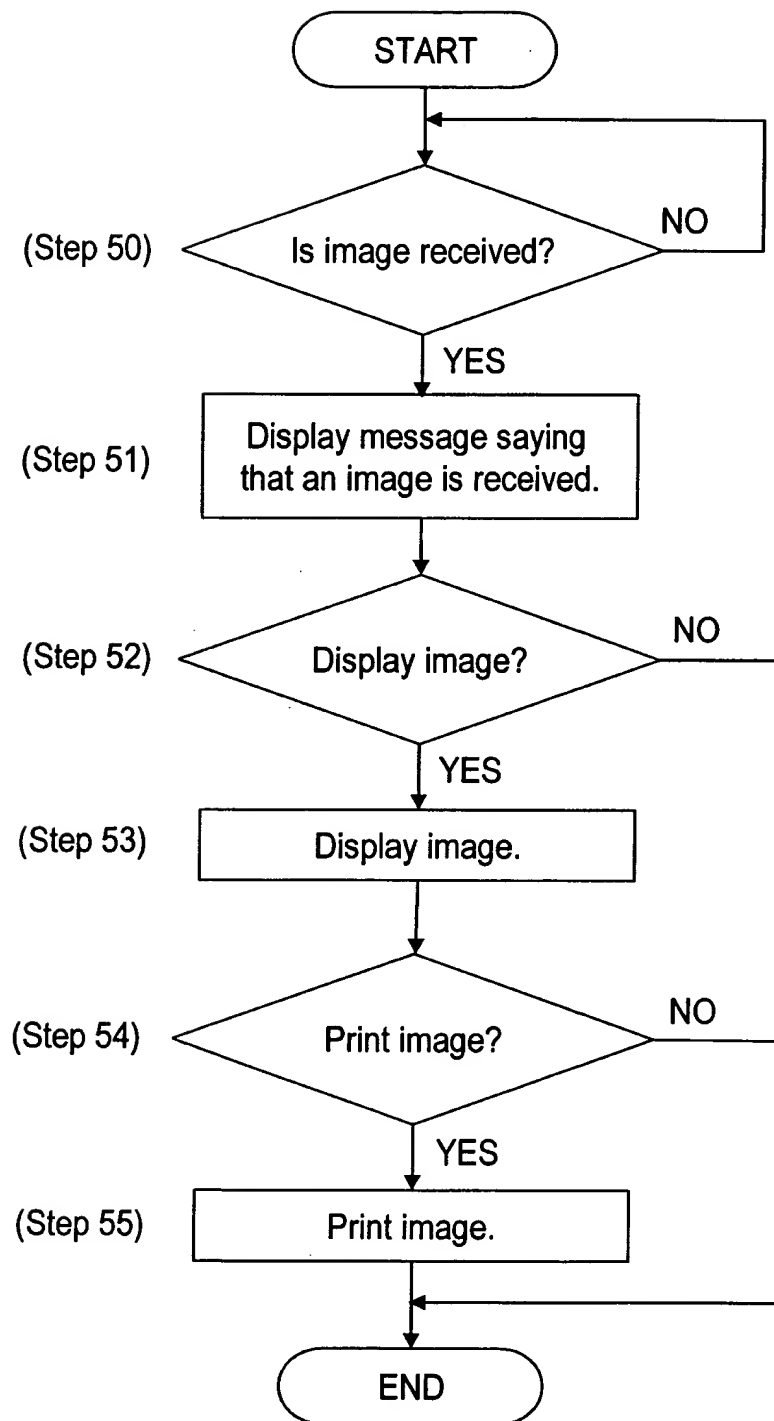


Fig.6

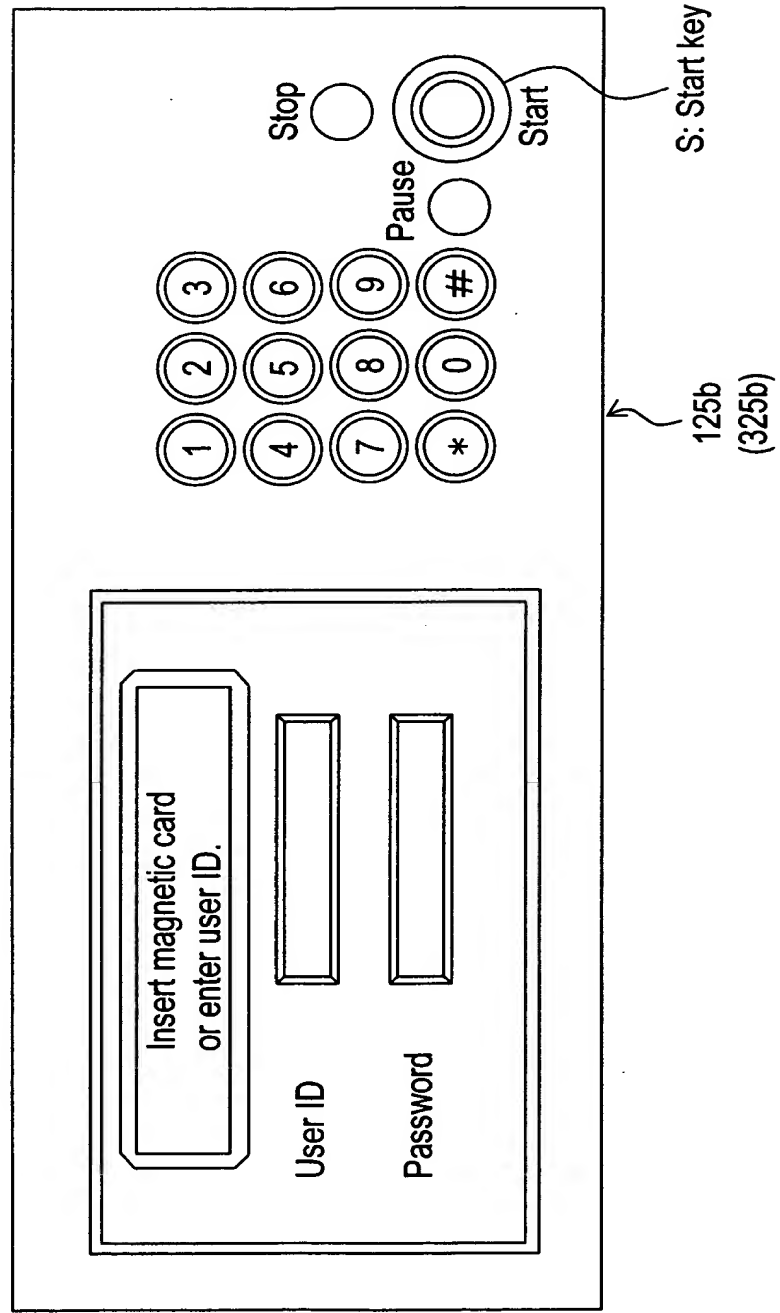


Fig.7

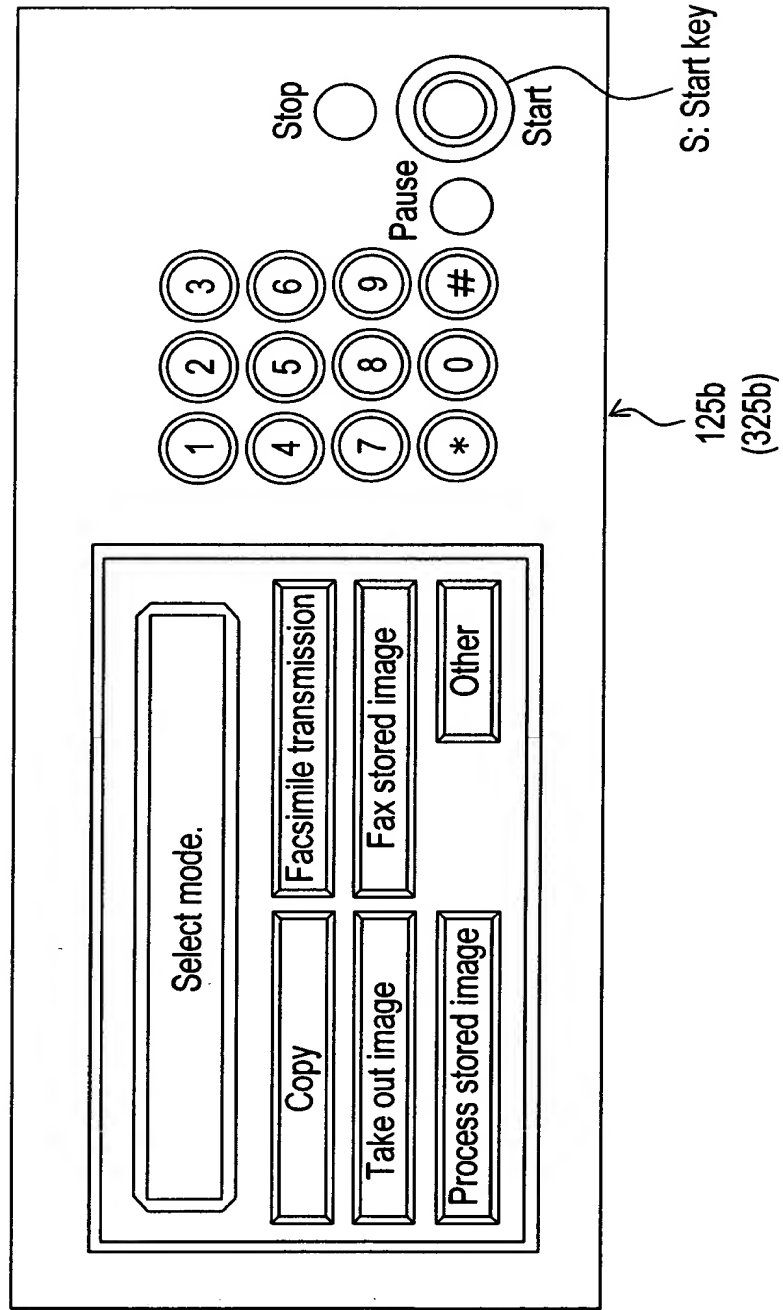


Fig.8

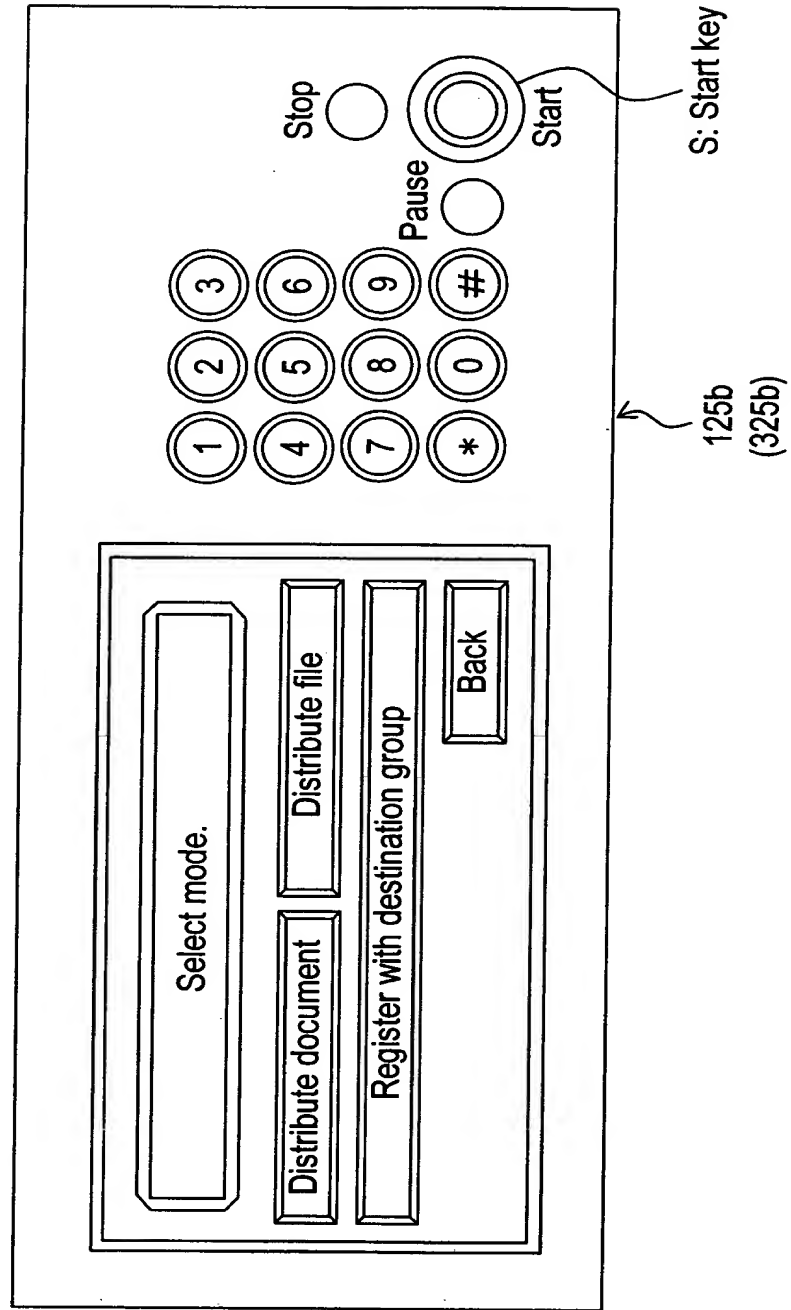


Fig.9

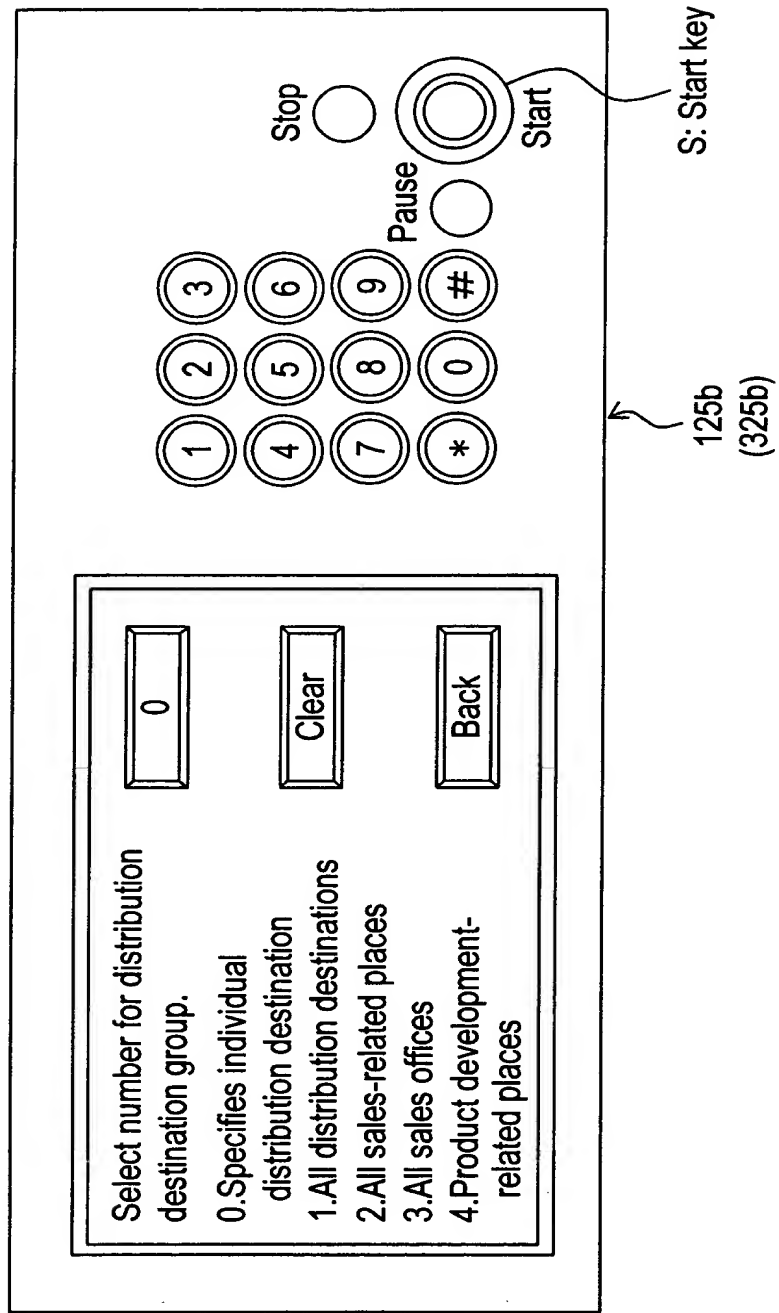


Fig.10

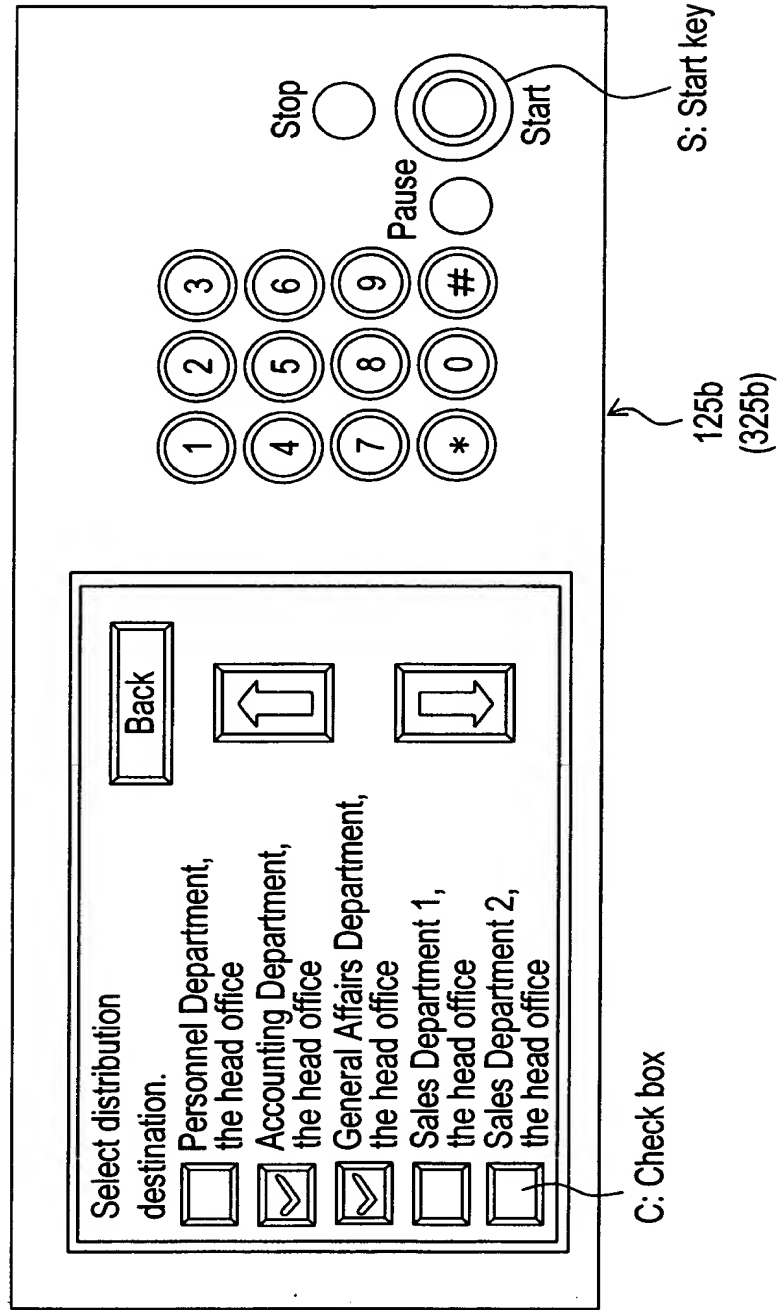


Fig.11

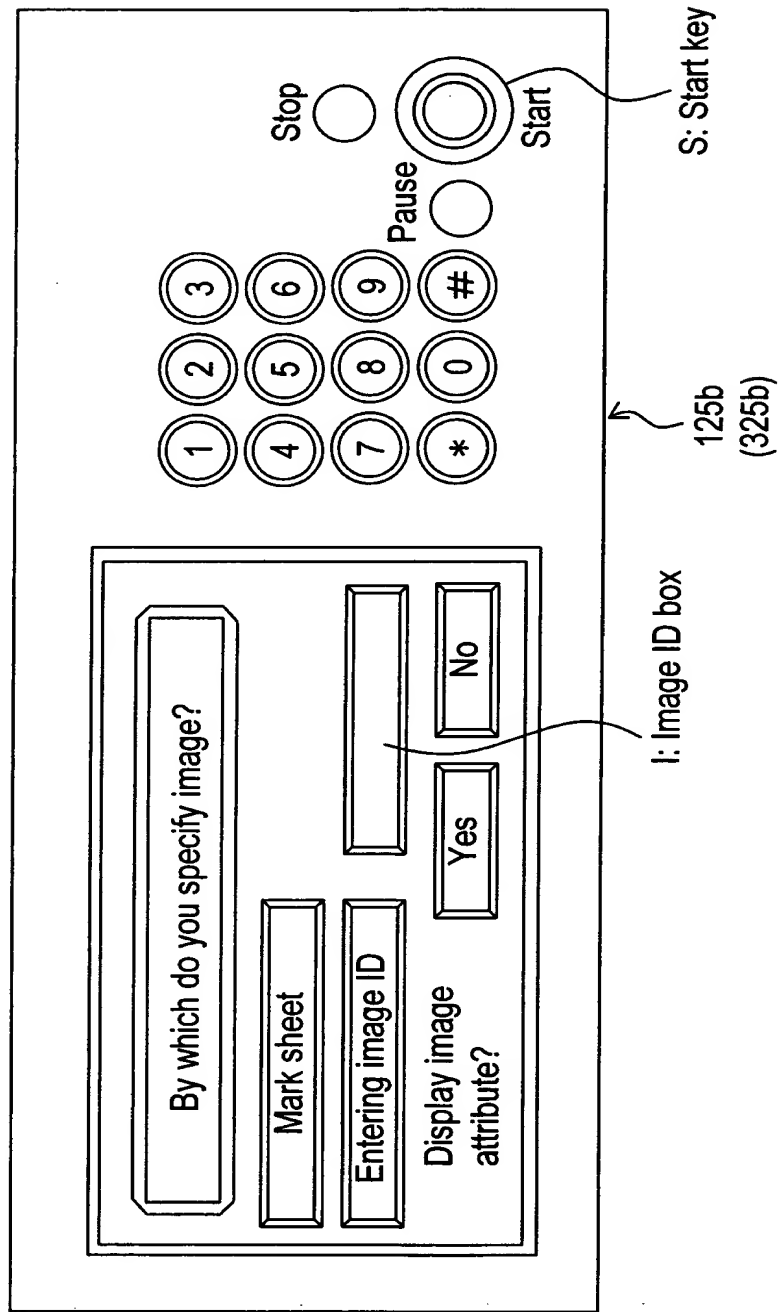


Fig.12

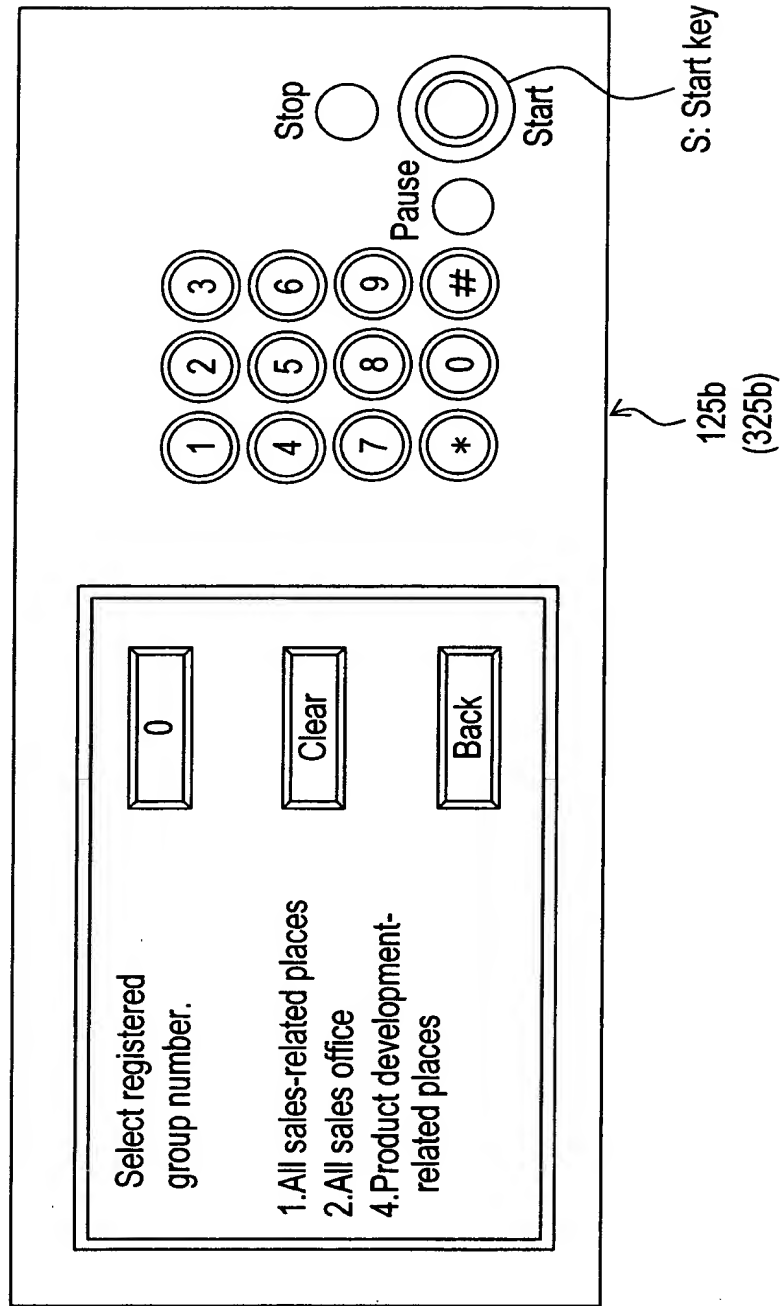


Fig.13

Specify distribution destination.

Group: All distribution destinations

Group: All sales-related places

Group: All sales offices

Group: Product development-related places
Personnel Department, the head office
Accounting Department, the head office
General affairs Department, the head office

OK

Register with distribution group

Cancel

B1: Button "OK"

B1: Button "signal distribution destination group registration"

L: Signal distribution destination list

Fig.14

#All distribution destinations

#File name "all. rec"

jnji.hqs.mei.co.jp;	the personnel department, the head office
keiri.hqs.mei.co.jp;	the accounting department, the head office
sohmu.hqs.mei.co.jp;	the general affairs department, the head office
sale1.hqs.mei.co.jp;	sales department 1, the head office
sale2.hqs.mei.co.jp;	sales department 2, the head office
saleo.hqs.mei.co.jp;	the overseas department, the head office
devl1.hqs.mei.co.jp;	development section 1 of the development department, the head office
devl2.hqs.mei.co.jp;	development section 2 of the development department, the head office
devl3.hqs.mei.co.jp;	development section 3 of the development department, the head office
devl4.hqs.mei.co.jp;	development section 4 of the development department, the head office
sale1.osk.mei.co.jp;	the sales department, the Osaka branch
devl1.osk.mei.co.jp;	the development department, the Osaka branch
soumu.osk.mei.co.jp;	the general affairs department, the Osaka branch
sale1.osk.mei.co.jp;	the sales department, the Nagoya branch
devl1.ngy.mei.co.jp;	the development department, the Nagoya branch
soumu.ngy.mei.co.jp;	the general affairs department, the Nagoya branch
sales.hkd.mei.co.jp;	the Hokkaido office
sales.sdi.mei.co.jp;	the Sendai office
sales.ngt.mei.co.jp;	the Niigata office
sales.utn.mei.co.jp;	the Utsunomiya office
sales.szk.mei.co.jp;	the Shizuoka office
sales.fko.mei.co.jp;	the Fukuoka office
sales.hrs.mei.co.jp;	the Hiroshima office

Fig.15

#All sales-related places

#File name "eigyau_all. rec"

sale1.hqs.mei.co.jp;	sales department 1, the head office
sale2.hqs.mei.co.jp;	sales department 2, the head office
saleo.hqs.mei.co.jp;	the overseas department, the head office
sale1.osk.mei.co.jp;	the sales department, the Osaka branch
sale1.ngy.mei.co.jp;	the sales department, the Nagoya branch
sales.hkd.mei.co.jp;	the Hokkaido office
sales.sdi.mei.co.jp;	the Sendai office
sales.ngt.mei.co.jp;	the Niigata office
sales.utn.mei.co.jp;	the Utsunomiya office
sales.szk.mei.co.jp;	the Shizuoka office
sales.fko.mei.co.jp;	the Fukuoka office
sales.hrs.mei.co.jp;	the Hiroshima office

Fig.16

#All sales office

#File name "eigyau_syo. rec"

sales.hkd.mei.co.jp;	the Hokkaido office
sales.sdi.mei.co.jp;	the Sendai office
sales.ngt.mei.co.jp;	the Niigata office
sales.utn.mei.co.jp;	the Utsunomiya office
sales.szk.mei.co.jp;	the Shizuoka office
sales.fko.mei.co.jp;	the Fukuoka office
sales.hrs.mei.co.jp;	the Hiroshima office

Fig.17

#Product evelopment-related places

#File name "develop. rec"

devl1.hqs.mei.co.jp;	development section 1 of the development department , the head office
devl2.hqs.mei.co.jp;	development section 2 of the development department , the head office
devl3.hqs.mei.co.jp;	development section 3 of the development department , the head office
devl4.hqs.mei.co.jp;	development section 4 of the development department , the head office
devl1.ngy.mei.co.jp;	the development section of the Nagoya branch

Fig.18

All distribution destinations all.rec

All sales-related places eigyou_all.rec

All sales office eigyou_syo.rec

Product development-related places develop.rec

Fig.19

Image ID	NO. of pages	Image size	Registration method	Date of registration	Time of registration	User ID	Access right	Media ID	Link destination	Link source
00000001	3	A4	COPY	1997.01.29	20:10:45	0003	OWNER	0000	00000000	00000000
00000002	4	B4	FAX RECEIVE	1997.02.01	06:05:05	0000	FREE	0000	00000000	00000000
00000003	6	A4	FAX SEND	1997.02.01	09:17:55	0006	GROUP	0000	00000000	00000000
00000004	3	A4R	PRINT	1997.02.03	10:10:09	0003	GROUP	0001	00000005	00000000
00000005	3	A4R	COPY	1997.02.03	11:30:30	0003	GROUP	0000	00000000	00000004

128a: attribute table

Fig.20

IMAGE DATA DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM AND METHOD

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to an image data distribution system and method of distributing image data to a plurality of image communication units connected thereto through a network.

10 2. Description of the Prior Art

FIG.21 shows a typical network arrangement of the prior art image data distribution system (facsimile broadcast system). In this example, a document (image data) is sent from the facsimile unit 1002 at the head office to facsimile unit 1003 at branch office A, facsimile unit 1004 at branch office B and
15 facsimile unit 1005 at branch office C. The system works the following way.

The facsimile unit 1002 at the head office reads a document as destination group member numbers are specified. The destination group member numbers and the document are then sent to a facsimile data distribution exchanger 1001. The
20 image data sent is first stored in storage means such as a hard disk (not shown).

The facsimile data distribution exchanger 1001 has a list of facsimile numbers — the facsimile numbers of the facsimile unit 1003, the facsimile unit 1004 and the facsimile unit 1005 — corresponding to the destination group member numbers. The
25 facsimile data is distributed to

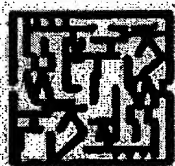


Fig.21 Prior Art

